

The overall exemptions are b1, b3.

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Zaire
Wf

*Zaire's Troubled
Hydroelectric Complex*

Zaire's \$1.5 billion hydroelectric complex, once viewed as an African show-piece, could well become the country's latest "white elephant." A 1,800-kilometer, \$600 million electrical transmission line—which went into operation last month—carries current from the Inga II Dam near the mouth of the Zaire River to the mining center of Kolwezi in Shaba Region. The profitability of the new line, however, appears far bleaker than when a US-led international consortium began construction in 1974. The surge in domestic power demand that was anticipated at that time failed to materialize after the decline in world copper prices forestalled a planned major expansion of Zaire's mining industry. Moreover, sales to neighboring countries will not generate enough revenue to amortize construction loans backed by the US Export-Import Bank or to finance maintenance of the system. ■

